

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Connect America Fund |) | WC Docket No. 10-90 |
| |) | |
| A National Broadband Plan for Our Future |) | GN Docket No. 09-51 |
| |) | |
| Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers |) | WC Docket No. 07-135 |
| |) | |
| High-Cost Universal Service Support |) | WC Docket No. 05-337 |
| |) | |
| Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime |) | CC Docket No. 01-92 |
| |) | |
| Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service |) | CC Docket No. 96-45 |
| |) | |
| Lifeline and Link-Up |) | WC Docket No. 03-109 |

ORDER

Adopted: August 29, 2011

Released: August 29, 2011

By the Chiefs, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On August 25, 2011, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (collectively, “Consumer Advocates”) filed a motion for extension of time¹ requesting a twelve-day extension to file reply comments in response to a Public Notice seeking comment on aspects of certain proposals filed in the record and on additional issues that are not fully developed in the record.² On August 26, 2011, the Rural Telecommunications Group and RCA – The Competitive Carriers Association filed motions for a nine-day extension of time to file reply comments.³ These parties seek an extension of time for filing reply comments due to the volume of comments received in the record combined with the complexity and significance of the issues addressed.⁴

¹ Consumer Advocates Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (filed Aug. 25, 2011) (Consumer Advocates Motion).

² Further Inquiry Into Certain Issues in the Universal Service-Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Proceeding, Public Notice, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, DA 11-1348 (rel. Aug. 3, 2011) (Public Notice).

³ Rural Telecommunications Group Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (filed Aug. 26, 2011) (RTG Motion); RCA – The Competitive (continued....)

2. Under Section 1.46(a) of the Commission's rules,⁵ it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted. We recognize that the comment schedule established by the Public Notice provided seven days within which to digest and respond to comments and that a substantial record was received.⁶ In addition, we note that Hurricane Irene has had a substantial impact on significant portions of the Eastern United States, including flooding and power outages that may affect the ability of interested parties to meet the original due date for reply comments.

3. We find that the circumstances presented here warrant granting a brief extension of time to file reply comments; however, we do not grant the extensions requested. Although we find that an extension is appropriate, it remains necessary to balance the circumstances discussed above with the Commission's commitment to promptly address the issues raised in this proceeding.⁷ Accordingly, we grant an extension of six days to file reply comments, which shall now be due on September 6, 2011.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), section 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, and pursuant to the authority delegated in sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, the motions for extension of time filed by the

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Carriers Association Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (filed Aug. 26, 2011) (RCA Motion). In addition, the Universal Service for America Coalition filed a letter in support of both the Consumer Advocates Motion and RCA Motion. *See* Letter from Todd D. Daubert, Counsel to the USA Coalition, to Marlene H Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; GN Docket No. 09-51; CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 (filed Aug. 26, 2011).

⁴ *See* Consumer Advocates Motion at 2; RTG Motion at 2; RCA Motion at 2.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

⁶ *See* Consumer Advocates Motion at 2 (noting that 126 initial comments and over 2,800 pages were filed); RCA Motion at 1 (stating that over 125 parties filed comments amounting to almost 3,000 pages); RTG Motion at 2 (stating that over 100 parties filed comments).

⁷ *See Bringing Broadband to Rural America: The Home Stretch on USF and ICC Reform*, <http://www.fcc.gov/blog/bringing-broadband-rural-america-home-stretch>.

National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, the Rural Telecommunications Group, and RCA – The Competitive Carriers Association are GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART as discussed herein.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Sharon E. Gillett
Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau

Rick Kaplan
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau